

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McCarthy:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has taken a devastating toll on all sectors of our economy. As businesses are trying to navigate through this pandemic, there is a growing list of industries that either face threats or have already lost their banking services from their financial institution because their industries have fallen out of political favor. In Congress, we must ensure all lawful and legally compliant businesses are insulated from political biases and are not arbitrarily excluded from participating in our economy.

There has been a troubling trend over the past few years of House Democrats and political activists turning to the financial services industry to try to get their agendas passed. Since the Democratic Party has been unable to enact their radical ideologies through the normal legislative process, they have diverted their attention to pressuring financial service institutions to stop providing services to specific industries they dislike. Unfortunately, they have seen some success in their efforts. Many financial institutions have already limited the business they do with the firearms industry, and the calls are growing louder to expand this prohibition to other vital sectors of the economy, such as the oil and gas and coal industries as well as contractors for the Department of Homeland Security. This sets a dangerous precedent and we should discourage their efforts to de-risk legal businesses.

Financial institutions play a very unique and important role in our economy. Unlike other businesses, they act as the gatekeepers to many aspects of the economy. Bank charters give financial institutions access to taxpayer backed deposit insurance. These institutions also have access to the Federal Reserve's discount window, which gives them the ability to borrow directly from the central bank. They also have the benefit of using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) to facilitate transactions throughout the country. Because of these unique government privileges, we must ensure that they are not picking winners and losers for reasons other than normal underwriting procedures for all legal businesses.

We must act now to stop this trend and not concede our responsibilities as elected officials to financial institutions. The Democratic party has made it clear that they want industries that don't align with their political ideologies to fail, and banks have started backing those endeavors. It is our duty as elected members of Congress to debate these issues in full transparency of the American people to ensure these decisions are not made behind closed doors of bank board rooms.

As we begin to recover from the impact that COVID-19 has had on our economy, all businesses are in desperate need of capital. It is more critical than ever that we ensure those in the financial services world are not discriminating against certain industries that have fallen out of favor with the left. We urge you to include a fix to this issue in any future COVID-19 legislation.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Rep. Don Young  
Rep. Denver Lee Riggleman III  
Rep. Scott Perry  
Rep. W. Gregory Steube  
Rep. David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Rep. Doug Lamborn  
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Rep. Dan Newhouse  
Rep. Steve King  
Rep. Jody B. Hice  
Rep. David Rouzer  
Rep. Mike Bost  
Rep. Ross Spano  
Rep. Donald J. Bacon  
Rep. Dan Crenshaw  
Rep. John R. Carter  
Rep. Van Taylor  
Rep. Adrian Smith  
Rep. Neal Dunn

Rep. Elise M. Stefanik  
Rep. Jeff Duncan  
Rep. David P. Roe, M.D.  
Rep. Ken Buck  
Rep. Bill Posey  
Rep. Richard Hudson  
Rep. Michael Guest  
Rep. Jim Hagedorn  
Rep. Debbie Lesko  
Rep. Randy K. Weber  
Rep. Brian Babin  
Rep. Rick W. Allen  
Rep. Bill Johnson  
Rep. Greg Gianforte  
Rep. Andy Biggs  
Rep. Alex X. Mooney  
Rep. Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Rep. Russ Fulcher  
Rep. Dusty Johnson

Rep. Doug LaMalfa  
Rep. Pete Olson  
Rep. David Kustoff  
Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Rep. Ralph Norman  
Rep. Fred Keller  
Rep. Trent Kelly  
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Rep. Kelly Armstrong  
Rep. Robert J. Wittman  
Rep. Paul Cook  
Rep. Rick Crawford  
Rep. Carol D. Miller  
Rep. Kevin Hern  
Rep. Jack Bergman  
Rep. John Rutherford  
Rep. Mike Johnson  
Rep. Dan Bishop